FBIS DAILY REPORT

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GENERAL VIOLA COMMENTS ON SUCCESSION ISSUE

FY132013Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2340 GMT 12 Apr 78 FY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 12 Apr--Army Chief of Staff Gen Roberto Viola has indicated that "Army Commander in Chief General Videla will appoint a successor before 24 March 1979, and possibly before the end of this year. To speculate about either names or dates of appointment would be to try to guess what General Videla is thinking."

Viola reasserted that the president will be appointed in line with the basic guidelines of the process of national reorganization and will be a high-ranking retired officer.

Viola stated that in operational matters each branch of the armed forces has one-third of the responsibility. He said that "the action of the military junta is based on total sharing of the goals of the process of national organization. The members state their opinions and adjust their proposals to reach decisions regarding the various issues which fall within the junta's jurisdiction."

With regard to the border conflict with Chile over the Beagle Channel, Viola indicated that the army will defend Argentina's territorial integrity. He stated that "this mission is essential. It is the army's raison d'etre and has been heroically and gloriously fulfilled throughout history."

These remarks by General Viola were published in the latest issue of the weekly magazine SIETE DIAS ILUSTRADOS of Buenos Aires.

MASSERA'S TALK WITH PERONISTS IN MADRID REPORTED

FY131955Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1126 GMT 13 Apr 78 FY

[Text] Madrid, 13 Apr--Adm Emilio Massera, member of the military junta, began contacts with Peronists in Madrid on 6 April, which will continue in Paris, it was reported here today.

Massera met with a group of Peronist intellectuals exiled in Spain at the Villamagna Hotel on 6 April. He also talked with Emilio Abras, Juan Peron's former secretary, reports CAMBIO 16.

Admiral Massera also met with Jorge Llampart, Santiago Diaz Ortiz, Anibal Iturrieta and Rodolfo Bittar. The latter two were invited from Caracas, where they now live, by former Peronist deputy Sobrino Aranda.

According to the newspaper, Massera expressed his peaceful interest in the Peronists and invited them to return to Argentina. There are about 400,000 Argentines in exile. "The navy is willing to release the list of those killed by the junta in repressive actions, pointing out that on this matter there is no unanimity among the junta members," adds the newspaper.

The Peronists in Madrid, states the newspaper, demanded the "normalization of union activities in Argentina, without interference, and the legalization of political activities without exclusions or demands on them for their return."

Massera then left for Paris, where he met with Hector Villalon and former Deputy Raul Waksmans, states the newspaper. "The main question," concludes the newspaper, "is whether Massera spoke for himself or in the name of the junta."

JUNTA APPROVES ACTIVITIES OF BORDER COMMISSION

FY140102Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2325 GMT 13 Apr 78 FY

[Text of communique released by government junta in Buenos Aires on 13 April 1978]

[Text] The military junta met in the Condor Building, Argentine Air Force headquarters at 1800 on 13 April 1978.

During the meeting, the junta approved the agreement reached by Argentine-Chilean mixed commission No 1 on the completion of its objective.

The junta also approved the resolution creating mixed commission No 2 and the guidelines which will regulate the activities of the Argentine delegation to this commission.

The junta then discussed matters related to the development of the process of national reorganization.

The meeting ended at 1930.

FOREIGN MINISTER MONTES RETURNS FROM ECUADOR

FY140256Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0245 GMT 14 Apr 78 FY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Apr--Foreign Minister Oscar Antonio Montes is back in Argentina after a 2-day visit in Ecuador, where he signed a joint declaration with his Ecuadorean colleague Jose Ayala Lasso.

Upon arriving at the military sector of the metropolitan airport at 2145, Montes stated that the declaration signed this morning included all the subjects discussed with Minister Ayala Lasso and that these dealt mainly with bilateral relations and coincident points of view on international policy. He declared that his visit had been very positive, but apologized for not giving further details since he first had to inform the president.

He was asked about his future trip to Bolivia and the possibility of President Banzer coming to Rosario for the arrival of the Bolivian ship Simon Bolivar, and he answered that the issue has not been discussed with the national cabinet so far.

He stated that Argentine-Chilean mixed commission No 2, which must continue reviewing the border issue in the southern area, will be established in a few days.

He concluded by stating that he was not in a position to confirm his trip to attend the conference of nonalined countries which will be held early in July in Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

Vice Admiral Montes was welcomed at the airport by Col Raul Cura, Foreign Ministry under secretary for international economic relations, and Col Hugo Repetto Pelaez, Foreign Ministry under secretary general.

ECONOMY MINISTER MARTINEZ CONFIDENT INDUSTRY WILL REBOUND

PY132234Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0144 GMT 13 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Apr--Economy Minister Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz has expressed his conviction that the current depression in economic activity can be overcome but warned that this would not mean that the problems will be over.

In a statement to the weekly MERCADO, the minister denied that the current economic situation is a recession and indicated that it is part of a readjustment process which is going on without any reversals. He explained that "the second half of 1978 will be one of gradual recovery leading to excellent prospects in 1979."

He said that "in 1978 we will clean up the national budget, and the financial situation of the state-owned enterprises will improve significantly." He added that "stocks accumulated at the end of 1977 will be used up this year and this, in addition to a gradual recovery, will give us important and solid growth next year."

He explained that the goal is a modern economy of production, both for the industrial and the agricultural sectors. We have to bring in new production techniques to produce both more kilograms of grain per hectare and better television sets."

The minister indicated that inflation cannot be curbed by shortages and a speculative economy, it can only be defeated through a fully competitive production economy.

He indicated: "We are not only concerned with creating new centralized industries, but we are also interested in the ones we have by expanding and bringing them up to date. We are doing quite well because out of last year's imports, which totaled $4 billion, almost $1 billion went to purchase capital goods--that is to say, modern equipment--which will help us to better and greater production."

He added that "this figure shows that industry tends to invest and update its equipment when given a chance. We have replaced lack of investments with another process based on savings and investment."

Asked what the state would do to help modernize the country, Martinez de Hoz stated: "The government will implement an energy plan which provides for the investment of $24 billion in the next 10 years," and added that "we are prepared to face the expenditures demanded by this plan."

Martinez de Hoz said that, "thanks to the changes implemented in the financial and exchange systems, such as variable interest rates, true parity of the peso with regard to other currencies, and market freedom, we have reversed the trend of our foreign sector."

He indicated that "last year exports amounted to $5.6 billion, a record 25 percent higher than the previous record, and gross reserves now amount to $5.5 billion, while liquid reserves are somewhat more than $4.5 billion. In March 1976 liquid reserves amounted to barely $25 million. That is to say, our active reserves in foreign currency were just enough for a few hours of import activity."

As for the foreign debt, Martinez de Hoz indicated that it is less than $9 billion and could theoretically be paid with 2 years of exports.

He announced that at this time an official commission is studying gradual reduction of customs tariffs to be implemented in the medium or long term, taking into account domestic production costs. The minister then went on to speak about the draft antidumping law, a modern mechanism capable of solving concrete cases before they reach a critical point. He said that the studies of this draft law are advanced and that this mechanism will allow early detection of imports coming in at dumping prices.

Finally, after pointing out that there is a campaign of pessimistic forecasts of massive unemployment and total collapse of national industry, forecasts which never come true, the minister indicated that "the promises we make are always cautious and I am proud to say that since 2 April 1976, when we launched the economic program, we have cheated no one.

Further Comments by Martinez

PY140026Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2135 GMT 13 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Apr--Economy Minister Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz announced at a press conference today that import duties on some goods which have experienced unusual price increases will be reduced. The same action will be taken on goods which are scarce, such as butter and milk products. We will not tolerate any shortage caused by lack of supply in the domestic market, he said. He also announced suspension of the export quota of sunflower seed oil and other agricultural products which have experienced substantial increases or which are in short supply on the domestic market due to favorable international prices.

Martinez de Hoz indicated that the policy regarding periodic devaluations of the Argentine peso will continue. This devaluation has gone from 7.34 percent in January 1978 to 5.86 percent in March. The policy of gradually expanding money issuance will also be maintained, but the rates of interest will continue to be free, following the declining tendency of the recent past.

He also announced that the Central Bank will begin to issue a monthly report on the basic rate of interest, based on a questionnaire to the leading financial entities, in order to promote long-term savings for which this basic rate will be a reference point. He emphasized that long-term savings are indispensable for long-term credits to be granted. Regarding utility rate increases, he indicated that there will be no established amounts or averages and that they will not be aimed at covering inefficiency of state enterprises.

POLITICIANS' MEETING WITH BALBIN TERMED UNPROFITABLE

PY132239Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1810 GMT 12 Apr 78 PY

[By Antonio Cesar Morere]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Apr--What was the meaning of a visit which leaders of several political parties paid to Ricardo Balbin? What was its outcome? Can we arrive at some conclusions? This idea of visiting Balbin and the visit itself have positive and negative features. Among the positive features we may list the following:

--A group of leaders visiting a rival political leader as a courtesy gesture during his convalescence must be praised even if the visit was only a demonstration of courtesy. Courtesy in the relations of political parties is a good thing.

--If besides expressing their courtesy those people were able to talk about the various characteristics of the present national situation and arrive at agreement, this indicates political maturity, and this also is a necessary requirement.

--If, in accordance with rumors, the group, in addition to evaluating the problems of the country, expressed its intention of not avoiding responsibility in the search for solutions, then the outcome continues to be favorable. There can be no solutions if responsibilities are not shared.

Regarding negative aspects, we may mention:

--This visit to Balbin on the occasion of his recovery turned out to have little relevance as a political gathering. If they had no political objective, instead of a social gathering they should have waited for a more relevant occasion to implement the first joint action in a long time.

--The obvious absence of the Popular Christian Party, the Christian Revolutionary Party and the Intransigent Party (the latter explained by Oscar Alende [a leader of this party] in curt words) made it clear that the political front is full of schisms, especially so since it would be impossible to imagine that this sort of meeting could be attended by the Integration and Development Movement (MID) or the Federal Party. It is equally impossible to disguise the doubts created by the absence of certain Peronists.

--The complications which arose in the preparation of the meeting, after the first meeting which was to be held in La Plata failed, made the recent meeting a somewhat forced affair, giving the impression of being an attempt to cover up an embarrassing situation without regard for consequences.

What conclusion can we reach through an examination of both positive and negative aspects? It is obvious, first of all, that in politics conclusions depend on the angle from which each observer views the events. However, in the case with which we are dealing it would be difficult to find a single participant in the meeting who was satisfied.

--Balbin had a few visitors but he did not get the massive greeting which had been expected. Even if he did get personal satisfaction out of the meeting, politically speaking it was an unprofitable one.

--With regard to the Peronists, the visit did little to bring them together, rather the opposite. Discussions are still going on among them, fired by those who believe that it was an unfortunate event.

--The communists, skilled in the art of taking advantage of any political situation, even if all they did was just attend the meeting, were unable to prepare even a short communique about having reached some agreement.

--As for the rest of the parties, we could say that they risked little, but got even less.

--Conclusion: If one wants to be in politics, one should avoid improvisation.

BANZER REJECTS POSSIBILITY OF WAR WITH CHILE

PY140325Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0247 GMT 14 Apr 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 13 Apr--At a press conference held here this afternoon, President Hugo Banzer discounted all possibility of war with Chile, emphasizing that Bolivia is a peaceful nation.

In reply to a question regarding possible war with Chile, Banzer said: "Either my words were not properly interpreted or I did not state our position properly in relation to the Chilean Government. Bolivia has never attacked and will never attack another country, because our history is marked by a belief in harmony and peace."

He added: "Bolivian military development will come after economic development and will be designed only to defend our borders, which is the main role of the armed forces, as in any other nation in the world."

He said: "The severing of our diplomatic relations will not prompt the closure of our borders with the neighboring country, or the disruption of our commercial relations, or actions against Chilean citizens. We will remain faithful to our tradition of respect for the individual and his rights and to the true significance of contacts among peoples."

Banzer called 30 journalists to the government palace to reply to written questions which had been submitted to him 2 days ago.

Regarding declining tin prices, he said: "The United States may sell its strategic tin reserves, but Bolivia has protested this situation, which is harmful to us and which reduces the wage prospects of our miners."

He stated: "If a leftist electoral triumph occurred in the 9 July general elections, the armed forces would deliver the government to the winner, faithful to their commitment to institutionalize the country."

He added: "The state television will be open to presidential candidates who are true representatives [of parties], but we cannot allow people who have no popular support to express their opinion and confuse television viewers." He continued: "There are full guarantees for all citizens in our country. Nobody must feel that his life is threatened; but if any of the candidates is in a dangerous situation regarding his safety, the government will guarantee his life and that of his supporters."

The president said: "The left has never exercised political power in Bolivia except in a subordinate [delegada] role, since the majority of Bolivians avoid political extremes and many of our fellow citizens are not members of any political party." Banzer condemned the existence of political extremes and expressed his inclination for nationalism, which allows the development of the country.

The Bolivian president admitted the problem of unemployment in Bolivia and indicated that the government of the armed forces has made an effort during the last 7 years to improve the standard of living of all Bolivians, particularly those with low incomes.

He emphasized: "I will only resign through a mandate from the armed forces and the people, since I did not receive the government from any political group." Banzer stated that he guaranteed that general elections would be held on 9 July, the first elections in the country since 1966.

CONSULTATIVE COUNCILMAN WARNS OF WAR WITH CHILE

PY130326Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 12 Apr 78 PY

[Summary] "Gen Hugo Banzer, president and commander in chief of the armed forces, presided over a meeting of the three commanders in chief and chiefs of staff this morning in the conference room of the Defense Ministry. During the course of the meeting President Banzer installed the members of the recently created Armed Forces Consultative Council which is made up of generals and admirals in the active reserve. The meeting concluded at 1100 and no information was released on what was discussed.

"Rear Adm Horacio Ugarteche (ret), former commander of the navy and a member of the consultative council--which for the first time sat in on such a meeting--also attended the meeting. The high-ranking military officer expressed satisfaction over his participation in the high command of the armed forces, especially in a sector which will participate on the same level as the other members of the high command. Ugarteche chatted with the press. His remarks, as you will appreciate, were made in a simple way. For the first time a member of the consultative council spoke plainly about the subject of war.

"Ugarteche referred to the enthusiasm which exists among the council members and their desire to work positively for the institution."

[begin Ugarteche recording] "They are enthusiastic about the progress of the armed forces at this time because, for example, of the need to seek alliances which will deter our Chilean friends from invading us, because invasion is the only alternative [esta planteada la invasion]."

We cannot count on being defended by Argentina, Brazil, Peru or even Paraguay and the United States, and besides, the Chileans were always seeking an excuse for severing relations. Currently, for example, they continue to try to keep Bolivia within the corral so that it will continue its backward slide. Bolivia has not progressed as it should because there is no sea, and the sea is everything. Look what horizons our new ship opens up. The sea is everything and without the sea we are dead. [end recording]

"You have just listened to the admiral's remarks on the sea and its recovery. He mentions the word 'war.' Why does the man from the navy believe that Chile has no alternative but to invade Bolivia? He also remarked that the Chileans have always sought the severing of relations in order to put us on a war footing. The opinion of the admiral on this delicate subject is potentially explosive, and it moves one to thought.

"But there was more in his talk with the press. A reporter asked Ugarteche what he would propose to the armed forces at a time when a virtual conflagration with Chile might be ignited. Ugarteche offered several solutions for avoiding conflict, referring to our war potential in comparison with that of Chile. Ugarteche said: [begin recording] If we had the potential to take the offensive, it would be wonderful." But there are dangers, you yourselves can see what is happening when even the smallest portion of a country is invaded: It turns into total war, the United Nations arrives, but the territories continue to be occupied. But what I am afraid of--and I will give my life at any time where Chile is concerned--is that I believe we are still too weak. But there is always dissuasion. This can be achieved in three ways: 1) with alliances; 2) with an appropriate war potential; "and 3) by doing away with disagreement between Bolivians. Otherwise, the country is going to go to pot." [end recording]

"'The country is going to pot.' That was the phrase used by Ugarteche, as you heard, when he referred to the need for Bolivians to unite now.

"Referring to the political struggle between Bolivians, he indicated that politicians only think of obtaining a post instead of about the fatherland.

"When he again referred to the possibility of a Chilean invasion, Ugarteche was pessimistic. He indicated that within an hour the Chilean Army would be at the doors of the Bolivian Government. "He indicated that Chile has plenty of war material, something he was able to observe during a recent visit to the Chilean port of Arica. It even has missiles, said the member of the council.

"Finally, the high-ranking navy officer indicated that in view of Chile's preparation and armaments Bolivia should also be prepared, especially its youth. The subject of war, we repeat, is once again news, and this report closes without commentary."

'KILL CHILEAN' NOTE BLAMED ON AGENTS OF PINOCHET

PY132336Y La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 10 Apr 78 p 2 PY

[Editorial: "An Objectionable Offense"]

[Text] Chilean newspapers have reported an alleged message from an organization to a Santa Cruz newspaper urging the people to murder Chilean citizens who have settled in Bolivia, especially in Santa Cruz.

From any point of view, the accusation is inadmissible. Any society which is respected, as ours is, cannot let a criminal attitude spread in the international atmosphere, even if it comes from a clandestine group called the "Triple C."

The Bolivian People are Christian and have never and could not shelter mafia-type organizations which, as in the case we have mentioned, are engaged in criminal actions of the most primitive sort.

We keep disagreements with our neighboring nation on a different plane. For example, we want to awaken the same people who pillaged our territory so that, through legal and moral channels, they will understand that 5 million human beings cannot remain landlocked for so many years. Apart from the material values it has, in Bolivia's case the sea also carries spiritual and psychological values. It is also our intention to obtain a consensus of brotherly continental countries so that, with their influence, we may jointly prevent a situation leading to the greater dependence of this nation.

We in turn were surprised by the surprise expressed in some cable reports from Santiago. We repeat, treacherous actions have never prospered in our country, and in this land no person, regardless of his origin or race, has ever been threatened as to his security or his right to settle in any of our towns, as long as he obeys the law.

Notwithstanding this rejection, we must make clear that this kind of plot and propaganda distorts the Bolivian image abroad, and for this reason we suggest that the necessary steps be taken to discredit what has been said.

Dark deeds and coldblooded murders within the nation absolutely are not Bolivian methods. We feel that there is a deliberate intent to tarnish the prestige of our maritime cause and to present Bolivia as a tribal conglomerate where there is no law and no security for anyone. The repudiated "communique" which reached a newspaper in Santa Cruz may have very well originated from agents of General Pinochet's government. The note which says: "Serve the fatherland, kill a Chilean," is aimed at defaming our people. In our fatherland, nobody ever sent agents to murder political enemies. We reject with contempt the offense intended against Bolivia.

NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH ARGENTINA

PY132104Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1925 GMT 13 Apr 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 13 Apr--Argentina and Bolivia signed a document here today to increase nuclear energy cooperation. Bolivian Capt Francisco Mariaca and Argentine Rear Adm Carlos Castro Madero signed the bilateral document. The two officers are presidents of their nations' commissions on nuclear energy. The main points of the agreement include exchange of nuclear information, a common program for uranium exploration and exploitation and Argentine aid for a Bolivian nuclear reactor.

OPPOSITION PARTIES STRUGGLING TO FORM FRONTS

PY131750Y La Paz Radio Stentor in Spanish 1230 GMT 13 Apr 78 PY

[From the "Facetas" program]

[Excerpts] The political parties are continuing their consultations, trying to form some kind of front. Sixteen parties have already been registered at the electoral court, but so far no fronts have been definitely formed, except, of course, the official front.

The Bolivian Communist Party [PCB], Hernan Siles Zuazo's National Revolutionary Movement of the Left [MNRI], the Bolivian Socialist Party [PSB] and the Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR] have, as we know, virtually formed a front. In PCB circles it has been stated that the front is limited only to the four parties, the PCB, the MNRI, Aponte Burela's PSB and the MIR, and that the negotiations or wishes to include Victor Paz Estenssoro's National Revolutionary Movement [MNR], as well are something else. We have been told that this four-party front would only make a temporary pact, an electoral alliance, with Victor Paz Estenssoro's MNR, and that they would accept Guevara Arze's Authentic Revolutionary Party, only in case that were the only solution.

The working class of the Bolivian Labor Central and the peasants apparently do not wish to have any kind of pact with Siles Zuazo or Guevara. [passage indistinct] [Name indistinct] has clearly explained that the independent peasants of the country intend to name a worker, representing their class, as their presidential candidate.

BRIEFS

HUMAN RIGHTS ASSEMBLY CONGRESS--The Permanent Assembly of Human Rights of Bolivia will hold its national congress on 8 and 9 April in Cochabamba. During the congress it will discuss the role the assembly should play in the upcoming general elections. High-ranking members of Amnesty International will attend as observers. [La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 6 Apr 78 PY]

CHANGES POSSIBLE IN NUCLEAR PACT WITH U.S.

PY111812Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 8 Apr 78 p 3 PY

[Excerpts] According to diplomatic circles in Brasilia, the delivery by the United States of a copy of the U.S. law on exports of fissionable material and nuclear technology to the Brazilian Government has opened the possibility that the U.S. Government will propose either a renegotiation of the agreement signed for the supply of enriched uranium for the Angra I nuclear plant or a change in the Brazilian position regarding the agreement with the FRG. This formal delivery to a certain degree avoided diplomatic routine, which shows that the nuclear problem is again being included in U.S.-Brazilian relations.

The Brazilian Government, which refuses to sign the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, is attentively following the discussions which leaders of the European Atomic Community are carrying out on this subject, especially as the Brazilian Government is aware that the U.S. Government is expecting a decision by tomorrow, as stipulated in the U.S. law on export of fissionable material delivered to Brazil, on whether the European Atomic Community wants to renegotiate the current agreements, thus becoming subject to the legal principles which are now in force. If the United States decides to suspend the shipment of enriched uranium to the FRG, which is considered unthinkable (especially after the guarantees given by Vance to Genscher), because the FRG will reexport it to Brazil, over a long period of time the whole Brazilian nuclear program will run a serious risk. It will run the same risk if the FRG, in view of the unappealable U.S. decision, agrees not to export uranium and sensitive technology, that is, uranium enriching and reprocessing plants to Brazil.

Although it is admitted in Brasilia that the U.S. Government will not disregard the principles of international law, especially that treaties cannot be amended unilaterally in view of changes in domestic laws, a certain uneasiness and relative apprehension are visibly noted in both Brasilia and Bonn. The question to be asked at the moment is this: Is it convenient for the U.S. international position to create a climate of uneasiness among its traditional allies at this difficult moment the world is experiencing?

SENATOR REPLIES TO CRITICISM OF NUCLEAR PROGRAM

PY112340Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Apr 78 p 6 PY

[Text] Virgilio Tavora, the government's deputy leader in the Senate, yesterday stated that the technical and financial requirements needed for Brazil to have its own reactor are so great that the possibility is very remote. The senator's statement was in reply to Prof Jose Goldemberg, president of the Physicists Association of Brazil, and other Brazilian nuclear physicists who recently demanded a fundamentally Brazilian technology to escape foreign dependence.

The senator, who usually concerns himself with economic affairs, was holding a conference on the nuclear program at the Mines and Energy Commission when he cited the U.S. example to state that the final total cost of the fast flux test facility [FFTF], including the demonstration reactor, which was initially estimated at $2.5 billion, is now being reestimated at approximately $5 billion.

According to Virgilio, "in order to prove the complexity of developing a reactor and its prototype, we need only to cite the example of France which, after deciding to abandon the results of research carried out over a period of 20 years in favor of natural uranium reactors, found itself having to develop its own technology or to acquire U.S. patents."

France's potential for developing its own technology was excellent, according to Virgilio, because the country possessed considerable experience and a corps of 30,000 highly trained scientists, engineers and technicians. He stated: "It had already participated in the construction of light water reactors for either energy production or for naval propulsion. Even under these favorable circumstances, France did not decide in favor of creating its own reactor or building its own prototype. Instead, it acquired U.S. technology. The FRG and Japan did the same thing."

The senator explained that the construction of a reactor prototype demands the existence of three fundamental factors: the decision to develop a new type of nuclear reactor and related industrial and technological infrastructures which require the availability of financial and human resources existing only in large, highly developed countries with a very sophisticated technology. Virgilio stated that "none of these prerequisites is found in the present phase of Brazilian development."

"There will be no early inauguration because we are not moved by the desire to promote any particular government or person," said the senator with regard to the security conditions of the Angra I reactor now under construction.

With respect to the recent fire in Angra I, Virgilio said "it was not the first," and emphasized that "every precaution should be taken with the project" so that it becomes "an example and standard that should at least be equalled in future plants, so that nuclear energy in Brazil will benefit and not worry its people." The fires reached only the work area, according to the senator. The deputy leader admitted there is a delay in Angra's completion but that the same thing happens all over the world.

Virgilio Tavora summarzied the present phase of implementation of the German-Brazilian nuclear agreement. He stated that the enrichment plant, which will have a final capacity of 200,000 uts/year (separation work units) will begin to operate experimentally 2 years from now, and will be under the supervision of NUCLEI [NUCLEBRAS Isotope Enrichment, Inc]. NUSTEP [expansion unknown] is "already completely functional" and is developing research and development programs in various fields with the participation of Brazilian engineers. The basic plans for the fuel elements factory are finished, and detailed engineering work and preparation for building construction contracts have begun. Construction is scheduled for next year, in time to produce the first recharges for Angra I.

Virgilio announced that "a group of engineers is in the FRG at a reprocessing plant to absorb the technology and the concepts for our plant, which should begin operation in 1983." With respect to NUCLAM [NUCLEBRAS Mining Assistance, Inc], Virgilio said that its prospecting activities are limited to an area of about 70,000 square kilometers and that "about 90 percent of the prospecting efforts are still carried out by NUCLEBRAS," although NUCLAM "has already identified some promising areas."

NUCLEP, the heavy equipment factory, will be operational next year. Heavy equipment has been ordered from abroad, and the rest will be built in Brazil. This includes 16 cranes which have been ordered from Bardella. Finally, NUXLEN [NUCLEBRAS Engineering, Inc] which works jointly with KWU in elaboration of the Angra II and III projects, is coordinating the training of Brazilian technicians in the FRG in accordance with a detailed program and is carrying out almost all engineering work on the conventional part of the projects.

At the end of the debate, Senator Franco Montoro criticized the exclusion of Brazilian scientists by the leaders of the nuclear program. He suggested the establishment of a panel to discuss the German-Brazilian nuclear agreement, with the participation of two representatives from NUCLEBRAS and two scientists appointed by the scientific community.

FINANCE, LABOR MINISTERS MEET UNION LEADERS

PY140232Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amerela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 13 Apr 78 PY

[Text] The first meeting in the past 25 years between a finance minister and union leaders was held yesterday at Bandeirantes Palace. Thirty union leaders discussed major labor issues for 5 hours with Finance Minister Mario Henrique Simonsen and Labor Minister Arnaldo Prieto. Sao Paulo Governor Paulo Egydio Martins acted as moderator at this meeting, which was also attended by reporters.

Argeu Egidio dos Santos, president of the Metallurgical Federation of Sao Paulo State, emphasized the reduction of the workers' purchasing power. Argeu also criticized General Figuiredo's recent remark subordinating wage increases to greater production. He said: [begin recording] The future president said that there will be wage increases only if there is greater production. While there has been increased production, there has been no increase in wages or in purchasing power. [passage indistinct] It has thus become clear that the government, under the pretext of fighting inflation, has adopted a tight law [lei de arrocho] allegedly designed to remove the causes of inflation. But inflation is not caused by wage increases; inflation is caused by speculators and monopolies. [passage indistinct--end recording]

Labor Minister Arnaldo Prieto spoke about the right to strike and mentioned the so-called "May package" in reply to reporter (Humberto Ferreira). [begin Prieto recording] The right to strike is guaranteed by the constitution; there is also a law governing this matter. [end recording] [passage indistinct]

Finance Minister Simensen also discussed the right to strike. He said: [begin recording] Like any other dynamic institution, the right to strike can be revised and improved [passage indistinct--end recording]

BRIEFS

SOYBEANS TO USSR--TRADAZ, a Geneva-based multinational compnay, has imported 30,000 tons of soybeans consigned for the Soviet Union. The transaction was made with Fecotrigo and the Santo Angelo Wheat Cooperative (COTRISA) as main suppliers. Shipments are to start next week. COTRISA executives confirmed yesterday that more exports of soybean to Europe and the Soviet Union will be made in May. Exporters confirmed yesterday that the PRC and Japan are interested in purchasing soybeans from both Brazil and the United States. [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 12 Apr 78 p 25 PY]

PINOCHET DISCUSSES CABINET CHANGES WITH NEWSMEN

PY132225Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Santiago--Lawyer Osvaldo Iturriaga Ruiz is the new Chilean attorney general. He replaces Sergio Fernandez, who was sworn in last night as the first civilian interior minister. President Augusto Pinochet made this report himself today at noon during an informal talk with journalists. Pinochet noted that with the appointment of Iturriaga, who was deputy attorney general, there is continuity and that this is precisely what the government wishes to achieve.

The president also stated that Gen Hermann Brady will be appointed to a very important post. As is well known, General Brady resigned as defense minister and is now presidential adviser on national defense issues. General Pinochet categorically denied that Brady's resignation had anything to do with the activities of the Defense Ministry's National Information Center [CNI] regarding Michael Townley's expulsion from Chile before the deadline provided him through governmental decision. Pinochet said: That is not true. It is absolutely false. Brady left the Interior Ministry for a very important post. Asked whether General Brady will be appointed Chilean ambassador to Peru, the president answered: I do not know. He also answered "I do not remember" when asked whether Brady will be appointed abroad.

Government house journalists also asked the president if the appointment of civilian, Sergio Fernandez as interior minister insures greater civilian participation in the government. The president stated: As I said yesterday, this will be done in the same way as I implemented the economic measures. I charged one minister with the responsibility of implementing the economic plans, in other words, one person. The same is happening now with the new institutionality: It must be placed in the hands of one person so it can be guided along the appropriate path. He was also asked whether the new cabinet would include more civilians. Pinochet answered: Well, I have always said that civilians should gradually increase their participation in the cabinet, but the military must also be present. The president said that he did not believe that there would be changes at the intendant or governor levels. [sentence indistinct] Regarding the new cabinet, he said, as he did last night, that he had charged Minister Fernandez with a task and "if I were going to be involved in tasks which I have ordered others to carry out, why would I hand them out? I have not yet decided anything. I am waiting for the results of this work. I am a military officer [words indistinct]. Finally, journalists asked him whether there was a deadline for the summary proceedings of (?certain) investigations now being carried out. Pinochet said: There are things [words indistinct] recent, and I am not going to tell you when.

INTERIOR MINISTER PROMISES 'OPEN DOOR' POLICY

PY132208Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 Apr 78 PY

[Text] During a cordial talk with journalists covering activities at the Diego Portales Building, new Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez stated that he will maintain an open-door policy with journalists.

BACKGROUND OF CABINET SHUFFLE EXAMINED

PY131414Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1105 GMT 13 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 13 Apr--Sergio Fernandez Fernandez, the first civilian appointed interior minister since the installation of the government junta, within the next few hours will present a project to President Augusto Pinochet proposing a new cabinet with more participation of civilians.

In the past few hours, Fernandez jumped from the important post of attorney general to the principal post within the ministerial cabinet, immediately after the resignation of all the ministers headed by Gen Cesar Raul Benavides, considered to be the right arm of the current president.

Benavides was sworn in with Fernandez as defense minister, replacing Gen Hermann Brady Roche, who will continue as presidential adviser. This ministerial cabinet reshuffle was expected due to a number of domestic and foreign events. In addition, according to the official report, this is the first step taken regarding the speech made in the middle of last week by President Pinochet. In that speech, in addition to referring to the goal of returning to democracy, he pointed out that the new constitution would be ready toward the end of this year, and that he had given instructions to the commission in charge of preparing the text.

Also, in addition to jumping over one of the established stages to study the new institutionality, he revealed his desire to achieve greater participation and cooperation of the civilians.

It has been reported that the new ministerial structure does not mean a change in the economic and financial policy, which is in the hands of two civilians.

In dealing with foreign policy, the goals to improve relations and seek a greater opening to the United States are emphasized. Local observers here consider crucial the talks which Sergio Diez, Chilean delegate to the United Nations, will hold in New York within the next few days with Edward Medsvinsky, U.S. representative to the Human Rights Commission.

In its 4 and ½ years in power, the government junta has gradually incorporated civilian technocrats into ministerial posts in the important ministries of Economy and Finance, Justice, Urban and Housing and Labor. The object now is to broaden this participation, in order to leave the military with the mission of normalizing the political leadership, allowing the acceleration of the transitional stage which is moving toward the new institutionalization.

LINK HINTED BETWEEN BRADY OUSTER, TOWNLEY CASE

FY131229Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0330 GMT 13 Apr 78 FY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 12 Apr -The entire Chilean cabinet resigned unexpectedly today, but President Augusto Pinochet only accepted the resignation of Defense Minister Gen Hermann Brady, who was one of the key men in the 1973 coup which overthrew President Salvador Allende. The reason for the acceptance of General Brady's resignation is not yet known. Observers noted that the investigating police, who last Saturday morning ordered the expulsion of U.S. citizen Michael Townley before the 24-hour deadline for an appeal to the Supreme Court, were under the authority of the Defense Ministry, which until today was headed by General Brady.

Brady Denial

FY132207Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 Apr 78 FY

[Text] During a farewell meeting with journalists covering the Defense Ministry, Gen Hermann Brady said that he was satisfied with his work at the Defense Ministry. The former defense minister thanked journalists for their cooperation during his more than 3 years at this post. [recorded passage indistinct]

Regarding foreign affairs he noted that there is a better rapprochement with Ecuador, Peru and Argentina. The outgoing minister said that the Defense Ministry was not involved in the expulsion of U.S. citizen Michael Townley, and he described the issue as a political and police affair. [recorded passage indistinct] New Defense Minister Gen Cesar Raul Benavides will assume his post in the next few hours.

Townley's Lawyer Seeks Probe

PY131507Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 13 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Santiago--The court will issue its verdict today regarding an appeal submitted in favor of U.S. citizen Michael Townley, who was recently expelled from Chile. The First Chamber of the Supreme Court listened yesterday to the plea submitted by Townley's attorney (Fernando Rivera), who requested the appointment of a special judge to investigate the details of his client's expulsion from the country and the enforcement of the order.

The attorney stated that both Townley and his wife, Mariana Callejas, were members of the former National Intelligence Directorate and that since 1976 they had been members of the National Information Center [CNI]. (Rivera) said that their status as security agents enabled them to have double identity and that therefore Townley did not have his papers in order.

It must be noted that Townley was expelled from Chile for illegal residence in Chilean territory. He did not have his personal papers in order, according to the Interior Ministry.

(Rivera) argued in Townley's defense that he had requested (?secrecy) in the appeals since he had in his possession several documents which he said he could not make public because of his patriotic principles. With these appeals and several press articles, the lawyer tried to show the illegality of the expulsion order. Townley is presently at the disposal of the U.S. Justice Department. Later (Rivera) made an extensive appeal to show certain irregularities in the enforcement of the expulsion measure. Townley left the country before the legal 24-hour deadline had expired. This deadline permitted submssion of an appeal to the Supreme Court for a reconsideration of the Interior Ministry's order.

In this regard, (Rivera) said, I am surprised that on Saturday morning, the day Townley was expelled, that there was no one at the Interior Ministry and that Interpol did not answer telephone calls. My client left 17 hours before the deadline expired. He added: My client could not leave Chile since he was under a pending arrest order which was issued against him by the Concepcion court where proceedings are being carried out for the death of a worker of Channel 5 television station. Furthermore, my client was deceived. He was told that he would be taken to (?Iquique) but instead he was taken to CNI. Once there and in the presence of lawyer Manuel Acuna, Michael Townley was notified of the expulsion decree, which following the usual procedure in this kind of situation was given late to him to read. Finally, after he said that the Supreme Court was the only constitutional organization [in Chile], (Rivera) said that these were sufficient reasons to appoint a special judge to study the true facts. (Rivera) added there are many anomalies and I do not even discard the possibility of extortion.

The First Chamber of the Supreme Court must decide this afternoon whether or not it accepts the appeal or if it will appoint a special judge because of the cited circumstances.

GOVERNMENT ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON SUBVERSIVE PLOT

PA140345Y Quito La Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 0307 GMT 14 Apr 78 PA

[Communique released by government of the armed forces of Ecuador on 13 April]

[Text] In view of the events already known to the public which have caused the suspension of normal activities in Quito to the detriment of the population, the government of the armed forces makes the following public announcement:

1. All these actions, from civilized protests to vandalism, aggression, attacks on private property, and the use of urban guerrilla methods, indicate a well-planned subversive plot conceived prior to these incidents and controlled from commando centers established in the country according to foreign instructions.

2. Student groups characterized by their natural enthusiasm have been infiltrated by agents who are encouraging the various actions to create unrest among the people, a situation that has been exploited by common delinquents to commit vandalism.

3. Many foreigners have been identified among rebel groups, showing special training never before seen in the country, introducing urban guerrilla tactics, taking advantage of the natural enthusiasm of well-intentioned students in their nefarious plots.

4. We have information in hand that these groups have contacted leaders of the labor unions to stir the workers into attacking and destroying the city's waterworks, powerplants and communications systems.

In view of the above, the government of the armed forces has decided:

1. As of today, to begin military patrols to safeguard at all cost the peace and tranquillity of the citizens.

2. That those who engage in sabotage attempts against vital public services will be dealt with on the spot with the full force of the law.

3. To instruct the immigration office to conduct an immediate review of the documents of all foreigners in the country.

4. To instruct all parents to keep their under-age children under family supervision so that they cannot be used as instruments of evil and to prevent them from becoming innocent victims.

ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOLLOWING OFFICIAL VISIT

PA131916Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1742 GMT 13 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Quito, 13 Apr (LATIN)--Argentine Foreign Minister Vice Adm Oscar Montes today left for his country after a 3-day official visit in this capital, during which he held talks with the Ecuadorean Government and signed a joint declaration with Jose Ayala, his counterpart. Montes left in an Argentine Air Force plane from Mariscal Sucre airport at 1120 (1620 GMT) accompanied by his wife and a retinue of high-ranking officials. He was seen off at the airport by Ayala, Pedro Ignacio Garro, Argentine ambassador to Ecuador, and high-ranking government and diplomatic officials.

STUDENTS STAGE DEMONSTRATION AT U.S. EMBASSY

PA140139Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0020 GMT 14 Apr 78 PA

[Text] A group of university students marched to the U.S. Embassy in Panama this afternoon to protest the treaties which the U.S. Senate is now debating. A short time before their arrival, National Guard soldiers under the leadership of Maj Rogelio Alba took up positions around the embassy to protect the building.

The student march progressed along Balboa Avenue and when it reached the U.S. Embassy the students took up positions to stage a protest rally. In their speeches, the students said that they rejected the amended treaties. They cited the names of all the martyrs who fell in the struggle for the sovereignty of our country on different dates in our history.

The leader of the Revolutionary Socialist League denounced the DeConcini amendment to the neutrality treaty. He said that any demand by Panamanian workers for wage increases in Panama could be a cause for U.S. intervention in our land under the pretext of protecting the canal.

The demonstrators also took advantage of the occasion to paint the area with slogans repudiating the Senate changes which modify what was negotiated between Panama and the United States. They conceded that the number of demonstrators in today's march was small, but asserted that next Monday, when classes begin throughout the country, U.S. officials will then see how many students will be in the streets in order to prevent the Panama Canal treaty amendments from converting our country into a U.S. protectorate.

The students also announced that on Tuesday, 18 April, after the U.S. Senate votes on the principal canal treaty, groups of Panamanian students will be in the streets rejecting the pretensions of the U.S. Senate.

During the rally, taking advantage of the fact that the National Guardsmen were distracted, three students gained entry to the embassy grounds and tried to lower the U.S. flag. National Guardsmen scuffled with the students to keep order and maintain respect. Moments later, the students left the grounds accompanied by other students who had intervened to prevent violence.

To conclude the protest demonstration this afternoon, the students burned a U.S. flag made out of paper to symbolize the Panamanian students' position of rejecting the amendments which the U.S. Senate is still debating.

PROFESSIONAL FRONT REJECTS DECONCINI RESERVATION

PA140206Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Apr 78 PA

[Text] The Central Committee of the Broad Front of Professionals has issued a communique on the situation created by Senator DeConcini's reservation. The communique states that the situation has been analyzed in its entirety.

The communique goes on to say that, together with the Panamanian people, the Broad Front of Professionals categorically rejects the interventionist reservation and calls for the establishment of a strategy to continue the struggle against every vestige of colonialism that will remain in the country even if the canal treaties are approved.

The communique stresses that this strategy should be the result of broad consultations with all economic, social and political sectors most deeply committed to the national liberation struggle and which must be given real participation in planning the nation's destiny.

ACAN ANALYZES 'EXPLOSIVE' ATMOSPHERE IN PANAMA

PA131714Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1403 GMT 13 Apr 78 PA

[By Francisco Rubiales]

[Text] Panama City, 13 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Under the apparent calm and silence regarding the U.S. Senate debates on the Torrijos-Carter treaties, there is an explosive atmosphere in Panama which has so far not been revealed outwardly.

According to political observers, this should be greatly considered at this time.

Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos recently stated to U.S. newsmen Carl Rowan: Have we lost a war? Not even this much was demanded from Japan.

With that statement he expressed the feelings of the country which has been subjected during the past few months to the greatest tensions it has experienced during its 75 years of existence.

The Panamanian soldiers are training in a very special way. During their early morning marches they shout political slogans. One of the most repeated slogans lately has been: "My General, we are tired; give us the order to enter the Canal Zone."

On their part, the students who are now on vacation are preparing to stage demonstrations to reject the reservations and amendments attached to the treaties by the U.S. senators.

The Panamanian Government's fear of what could happen led it to postpone the opening of classes for 17 days. Panamanian schools, which normally open on 1 April, will not do so until 17 April, precisely a day before the senators vote on the principle canal treaty. On that day, the students will not hear the lessons of the teachers but the radio stations which directly broadcast the canal debates and the subsequent vote from the Senate.

"Anything can happen that day," numerous political leaders of both the government and the opposition have commented.

When General Torrijos tours the country in one of his customary visits to meet the people, he has to face groups of supporters of the "violent opposition" carrying placards and chanting slogans in favor of armed struggle. In a recent visit to La Pintada, Cocle Province, a placard said: "If negotiations fail, arm for the revolution."

But the slogans of the young people are even stronger. Some openly call for the expulsion of the gringos by force.

Several Panamanian commentators have focused on the process by which Panama has hardened its position in view of the debate on the treaties.

On 7 September, when Torrijos and Carter signed the treaties in Washington during a ceremony of great significance for America in the presence of some 20 chiefs of state and government, they unleashed a force that perhaps they will be unable to control one day.

In Panama it is openly said that the United States should now show through the issue of the canal treaties its real intentions regarding weaker countries and Latin America in general. "If it rejects the treaty, as the Senate is doing, the United States will show that it continues to be as imperialist as ever, perhaps even more," it is said everywhere.

The view that the reservations of Senators Dennis DeConcini and Sam Nunn are "unacceptable" is increasingly gaining ground in Panama. The DeConcini reservation establishes the right to intervene militarily in Panama when in U.S. opinion free transit through the canal is endangered. The Nunn reservation establishes the possibility that the United States will have military bases in Panama after the year 2000.

Not a single voice in Panama has emerged in favor of those reservations.

Some--very few--maintain that they must be accepted. They admit, however, that such an acceptance would be the only possible solution for a country threatened by economic ruin.

On many occasions, Torrijos has expressed his faith in peaceful solutions and in negotiations but he has also made it known that persecuted peoples cannot permit themselves the luxury of negotiating for a long time.

Foreign diplomats in Panama have been sending messages to their governments during the past few days which reflect "concern" over what could happen if violence breaks out as a result of frustration provoked by the Senate.

That same concern is shared by the Panamanian leaders, political observers and even the public in their daily comments.

'ENFOQUES' PANELISTS DEBATE TREATIES, RESERVATIONS

PA1302311Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0230 GMT 12 Apr 78 PA

["Enfoques" panel discussion program hosted by Mario Velasquez and Itzel Velasquez de Rangel with guests Dr Julio Linares, professor of international law; Dr Cesar A. Quintero, dean of the Panama University Law School; and Aquilino Boyd, former foreign minister--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Rangel] Dr Quintero: It has been clearly established here that there are reasons the government could use for turning down the treaties in view of the amendments which have been made. In spite of the fact that the government has not voiced an official position on the amendments, what legal arguments could the negotiators or the government officials use to show that the amendments to the neutrality treaty do not change the meaning of the treaty as approved in the plebiscite and, specifically, do not alter the contents of Article 4 of the neutrality treaty?

[Quintero] I think this is a very good question. I do not know what arguments they could use. However, putting myself in their position, let us say playing the role of the devil's advocate, they could say, or rather they would have to adopt the following position--which is precisely the one they did not adopt--and that is of saying that the original neutrality treaty included intervention because the DeConcini reservation is--and no one can deny this--a proclamation of the U.S. right to intervene militarily in Panama. No one can deny this. DeConcini himself clearly established this: This is the right to intervene militarily in Panama, even against the will of Panama if the circumstances so require it. Therefore, the DeConcini amendment is clear and unmistakable intervention. The Nunn reservation also entials military intervention because it means military bases and all kinds of military forces after the year 2000, that is, the possibility of establishing them.

Now then, if they [the Panamanian Government officials and negotiators] say that these amendments--especially the two latter ones--do not modify the substance of the neutrality treaty, they are now saying something they did not want to accept at the beginning and that is that the neutrality treaty is a treaty of intervention. I have said from the beginning that the neutrality treaty is not a treaty of neutrality. That is the reason why I did not agree with the treaties of 1977 between Panama and the United States, and I again say so. I said that the neutrality treaty was a military treaty, a treaty which regulated military operations and the military operation of the Panama Canal, and that everything evolved around strategy. However, in that treaty, although intervention implicitly seeps through, the term or concept of intervention is not clearly stated. The treaty is impregnated with the idea of intervention, but it does not specify it.

Therefore, if we are now talking about a neutrality treaty, and on top of that there are the DeConcini and Nunn amendments, all this simply means that now intervention is clearly established and in a more impudent manner than in 1903 and in a manner that is unacceptable not only for Panama but for all the countries of Latin America, as Alfredo Vasquez Carrizosa has said.

In an article appearing in the Colombian press and reprinted last Sunday, Alfredo Vasquez Carrizosa said that the approval of the neutrality treaty with these additions and reforms entails a defeat for Latin America, a defeat for the principle of nonintervention. Vasquez Carrizosa is a former Colombian foreign minister. He was the Colombian ambassador to the OAS at the time of the 1964 crisis. He is a distinguished Colombian politician, a well-educated man, with political and diplomatic experience. He is a conservative, not a radical, not a violent individual, but a moderate conservative who in 1964, when he was the representative to the OAS, gave evidence of a very cold attitude with regard to Panama during that crisis. Now, he is alerting us, because he feels Latin America is in danger if this neutrality treaty is accepted in the manner in which it now stands.

[Linares] Mario, I would like to add something to what Dr Quintero has said. This is in addition to my support for everything that he has said.

The only way Panama can now maintain that the Senate amendments do not modify the treaty of neutralization or of permanent neutrality, would be to accept that this treaty implicitly provided for the right of intervention--in an open and unrestricted manner--to be granted to the United States. However, the position of the Panamanian negotiators when this treaty was under debate was completely the opposite.

I am going to take the liberty of reading to you a short paragraph from a speech made by Dr Romulo Escobar Bethancourt on 22 October at the inauguration of the national lawyers meeting. Dr Romulo Escobar Bethancourt said the following: There does not appear--and all of you, and all the Panamanian people, have read the neutrality treaty--there does not appear anywhere any special right granted to the United States to intervene in our domestic affairs. This has been fully explained. It has been explained by the vice president of the republic. It has been explained by [Labor Minister Adolfo] Ahumada. It has been explained by Dr Lopez Guevara. It has been explained by many lawyers.

In other words, on that occasion Dr Romulo Escobar Bethancourt was expressing Panama's position during the talks on the neutrality treaty, and Dr Romulo Escobar Bethancourt's words are very important, not only because of his intellectual standing, but also because he was chief of the Panamanian negotiating team, and on this occasion, he was quoting other members of the negotiating team such as Dr Lopez Guevara, Ahumada, and so forth, who shared his opinion. Therefore, their position was that the right of intervention was not being granted. And it is obvious, as Dr Quintero has just said, that the Senate's amendments do give the United States the right to intervene.

[Velasquez] I would like you, Mr Boyd, to explain your interpretation of the DeConcini amendment.

[Boyd] Of course, Mario. My opinion is that the DeConcini amendment flagrantly violates the principle of nonintervention established in the UN Charter, in the OAS Charter, in the Rio Treaty, and in the agreements in principle of the nonalined group, to which Panama belongs.

I believe DeConcini wished to make explicit that which many persons believed to be implicit in the neutrality treaty. I must confess that when the Torrijos-Carter treaty was subjected to a plebiscite, I announced that I would vote in favor of it, because I believed that the treaty should be examined in its entirety--the good things and the bad--to establish a balance for determining whether it favored the best national interests. On that occasion, I reached the conclusion that the good outweighed the negative, and I said so.

I believe that the treaties, as signed by Torrijos and Carter in September 1977, give us effective sovereignty over all our territory and control over the canal by the year 2000, among other things. And I believed that this was basic to achieve what many Panamanians describe as the phase in which the Republic of Panama would complete its total political and economic independence.

I believed that with the emphatic recognition, by means of a bilateral convention with the United States, of Panama's effective sovereignty over all its territory, we would have full jurisdiction and later, control over the entire Canal Zone and over the canal in the year 2000, which would put us in a very favorable position to eliminate the negative aspects of the treaty.

At that time, I dispassionately reached the conclusion that, in fact, one of the most negative aspects was the neutrality treaty, which gave the United States certain rights to guarantee the defense of the neutrality of the canal, and, as has been duly noted by the distinguished lawyers, Doctors Quintero and Linares, there in the false clothing of neutrality what we actually had was a military pact between the United States and Panama.

However, I felt that this was acceptable, if there were no arguments with us concerning the other attributes of effective sovereignty over all of our territory. And I believed that we would leave future generations with the option, in the year 2000, of demanding a pure neutrality at the most appropriate international organization for this purpose--the United Nations. I remember that at the time, after consulting with high-ranking officials of the UN Secretariat, I suggested that Panama, or a future Panamanian government if the present one did not care to do so, could present a resolution to the UN General Assembly requesting that the international law commission, which is comprised of the most prominent jurists of the world, study a formula to achieve a real and pure neutrality and that this formula be discussed with the five permanent members of the UN Security Council--the United States, the USSR, Great Britain, France and China. If this formula, presented by the international law commission to the great powers and later to the majority of the users [of the canal] and later to the majority of the members of the United Nations were acceptable, it would be up to the new generation of Panamanians to tell the United States that the neutrality treaty is as great a farce as was the neutrality provided for in the 1903 treaty and in the famous Constantinople agreement on the Suez Canal.

We all know that the Panama Canal, in two wars, has never observed the principles of neutrality. Recently, during the Cuban crisis in 1962, Russian ships were prevented from passing through the Panama Canal. Therefore, I believed that we could later ask for, through the United Nations, a formula for purifying that which we were being obliged to accept in exchange for effective sovereignty and control over the canal by the year 2000.

The other option open to future generations was that of entering an evident and explicit military alliance, such as that among the North Atlantic countries, like that of the Philippines, Spain, and more directly, as is the case of Spain, Portugal, Turkey [as heard]. I believed that, in the hour of decision in the year 2000, the new generation, possessing the knowledge of the events which would have occurred in the course of these 22 years, would decide what would be most beneficial to the national interests, once Panama were in total possession of all its territory.

I believed that, in effect, it was a great step forward for us to have arranged in the Carter-Torrijos treaty for Panama to have full control of its territory by the year 2000. I must say that I felt optimistic because the United States has used the words "sovereignty," "jurisdiction" and "control" synonymously. In the Torrijos-Carter treaty, our effective sovereignty over our territory is definitely recognized and it is stated that in a short time we will have full jurisdiction--a few years after the exchange of instruments of ratification of those treaties.

We would have control over the canal in the year 2000. However, there is no doubt that these changes, these amendments which the Senate has now introduced, sabotage these great aspirations, and if these amendments are approved, future generations will not have the options of a true neutrality if world cirumstances demand it or a military alliance with the United States, if they believe that this is most favorable to the interests of the Panamanian state.

For this reason, I believe that the U.S. senators have been changing by subterfuge the original concept of the treaties signed in September 1977, and, in my opinion, these changes, these amendments, these modifications, these understandings and these reservations are unacceptable to Panama.

[Rangel] Dr Quintero--without excluding you, Dr Aquilino Boyd--could you explain the following for me? It has been established that certain sectors have already noted in Panama that the UN and OAS charters establish the principle of nonintervention in the domestic affairs of other states. Nevertheless, with regard to these articles and these amendments which provide for intervention in Panama, these sectors have argued the following: that the UN and OAS charters would be applicable to these treaties. What would be the legal value [of this argument]?

[Quintero] This is very simple, Itzel. High-ranking officials of the United States have said: Do not worry about the DeConcini amendment. Do not worry about the Nunn amendment. Do not worry that there are clauses here which could be interpreted to mean, or which clearly state, that the United States can intervene militarily in Panama. Do not worry about this, because the UN Charter and the OAS Charter forbid this. Sirs: If this violates these charters, there is even more reason for not including them.

If the UN Charter says that armed intervention by one state in another--particularly when it takes place without the consent of the second state, which in this case would derive from the amendment--is prohibited, then it is an international crime. Therefore, we would be accepting clauses which are criminal violations, because as high-ranking spokesmen of the United States have said, the UN and OAS charters expressly forbid that which they want to establish and which they ask us not to worry about because they maintain that since these things violate those supreme charters they are not very important.

We would therefore be collaborators, accomplices in criminal clauses, as I would call them if there can be such clauses, or clauses which violate higher laws. I yield to Minister Boyd.

[Boyd] To complete the erudite answers given by the dean of our law school, I wish to say--and I have been following the Senate debates on these treaties very closely--that there are other dangerous aspects. For example, former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, on 14 October 1977, before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said that he believes that Articles 4 and 6 of the neutrality treaty were not contrary to either the letter or the spirit of the UN and OAS charters, because it was a free contract between two sovereign states. He believed that the rights being granted in those two articles were rights to defend the neutrality of the canal. He added that he felt that this did not contravene either the letter or the spirit of the statutes of the world and regional organizations.

Subsequently, Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd of West Virginia said on the "Face the Nation" television program that he believed what DeConcini had said in his famous modification, called a condition in the resolution of ratification which appears in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, was nothing more than the explicit expression of something which is implicit in Articles 4 and 6 of the neutrality treaty.

Senator Byrd went further. He professed that this is necessary to clear up certain matters which were somewhat ambiguous. However, as Dr Linares has said, the original treaties had to be analyzed in their entirety, and I believe that very often in certain matters diplomats choose ambiguous phrases in order to permit the parties to reach interpretations that are favorable to the viewpoints of their states. Although we saw that this was a negative aspect of the original treaties before the DeConcini and Nunn amendments were introduced, we realized that this could be corrected. But now, when the senator from Arizona has expressed things so clearly, categorically and crudely, so specifically, I would say that there can be no other interpretation than that Panama is granting the United States the right to intervene in its domestic affairs with military forces within Panama whenever the United States feels that there has been interference with the proper functioning of the canal.

Therefore, it seems to me that if we fail to reply to the statements made by Kissinger before he knew of the DeConcini amendment, which was formulated on 16 March, and to the statements made by Senator Byrd; if we fail to respond to this challenge with a clear, emphatic and categorical answer from Panama to the effect that this is totally unacceptable and that this radically changes the sense and the text of the treaties which Panama approved in a plebiscite, we will later have cause to regret it because of the drastic interpretation which the United States will give to this right of intervention in Panama.

[Velasquez] The government has taken a certain position, a position which I feel was expressed in two communiques issued by the Foreign Ministry and later expanded upon in Torrijos' letter to the chiefs of state of the world and in statements made by General Torrijos this past weekend to U.S. newsman Carl Rowan. In my opinion, the Panamanian position is outlined in these documents. Dr Quintero, I would like you to give your opinion with regard to the manner in which the Panamanian Government has been handling the problem so far. I note that there are those who maintain that the government should make a pronouncement immediately, while the government has preferred to delay decision until the U.S. Senate has voted on the second treaty. We do not yet know what that decision will be, but as we have already noted in certain positions taken by the government certain indications, in my opinion, as in the Foreign Ministry communiques, in Torrijos' letter to the chiefs of state of the world and in his statements to Rowan. I would like you to tell me what you think of the government's handling of the problem.

[Quintero] Well, the proper term is the handling of the problem, because so far there has been no pronouncement on the part of the Panamanian Government.

There have been certain steps, which I believe to be wise, such as the note sent to the chiefs of UN delegations, to the permanent representatives at the United Nati ns, from General Torrijos, along with another very appropriate note from our abmassador to the United Nations, Dr Jorge Illueca. This is important. It has a logical explanation in view of the fact that the neutrality treaty carries with it a protocol that leaves the treaty open for adherence by all the nations of the world. Therefore, by sending the text of these amendments and other provisions inserted into the neutrality treaty to the UN representatives, with the request that these representatives forward them to their respective chiefs of state and government, one is telling them: Sirs, this is what you would have to ahdere to. Under those circumstances, I believe that very few states would adhere to it, very few. Perhaps some little republic which is seeking a loan of some kind or which is seeking to have an unpopular government maintained in office would adhere to it. But I believe that no republic, no state, would adhere to a neutrality treaty which openly provides for the principle of armed intervention, of military intervention. It seems to me that this is the wisest step the government has taken so far. Otherwise, the Foreign Ministry communiques have merely said that there would be no pronouncement.

[Velasquez] I could perhaps ask you something else, but I also wish to ask you specifically about Torrijos' statement to the newsman, Rowan, this past weekend. This is perhaps the most recent statement made by Torrijos.

[Quintero] Yes, with pleasure, but I yield to former Minister and Ambassador Boyd, who knows more about this.

[Boyd] I would say that to best inform the Panamanian public, there is not better way than to speak in chronological order. When the DeConcini amendment was approved and the resolution was ratified [as heard] by the Senate on Thursday, 16 March, the New York TIMES published the following day an article by Allan Riding datelined Panama City, 16 March, which stated: With obvious disgust, the Panamanian Government has indicated tonight that it will accept the last-minute amendments introduced into the new neutrality treaty of the Panama Canal. The chief of the negotiators, Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, said that the basic ojectives which Panama has sought in the treaty have not been affected by the reservations. Dr Bethancourt added that, in principle, we consider that these reservations are very digestible--it says here, "digestible" [in English]. I understand that he said in Spanish, "potable"--in view of the fact that the basic questions involving the fundamental essence of the neutrality treaty were not affected.

We see, therefore, that the chief negotiator and authorized spokesman, as soon as the DeConcini amendment was approved and the resolution of ratification of the neutrality was passed by the Senate, said that the Panamanian Government believed the amendments to be acceptable because they do not affect the basic objectives of the neutrality treaty.

The next day, the Foreign Ministry sent a cable to all of the diplomatic missions, or rather to some of the important Panamanian diplomatic missions abroad. In this terse note, the government said: In view of the fact that the Panamanian people gave their approval to two treaties, that is the treaty on the permanent neutrality of the canal and the Panama Canal treaty, the government considers it advisable not to issue any opinion on the decision of the Senate regarding the treaty on the permanent neutrality of the Panama Canl pending a pronouncement by the Senate on the Panama Canal treaty. As soon as this occurs, the understandings will be evaluated to determine whether or not the people's will as expressed in the plebiscite has been distorted.

Another portion of the communique [as heard] states that for the reasons explained therein, the government headed by General Torrijos and President Lakas decided to refrain from making any pronouncement with regard to the modifications made or to be made by the Senate to the treaties until the official texts of these documents are in our possession, whereupon we will calmly analyze them and we will outline to the citizenry the conclusions we have reached in accord with our constitution and international law.

The final portion of the communique states: We trust that the final result of the negotiating process, which will culminate with the exchange of instruments of ratification in Panama City, will fulfill our cardinal aspirations on the firm basis of national dignity and respect for our self-determination and for our territorial integrity.

Later, on 30 March, with much good sense as Dr Quintero has said, our ambassador to the United Nations circulated, through the General Secretariat, a very important document, the main portion of which states the following: According to its proponent, the DeConcini amendment seeks to give the United States of America the unilateral and perpetual right to take military measures on Panamanian territory without the consent of the Panamanian Government. He affirms that this amendment should be interpreted to mean that the United States would be permitted to intervene in Panama in the event of labor disorders, strikes, a work slowdown, or for any other reason considered to constitute interference with the operations of the canal.

Subsequently, on Monday, the 27th, the Foreign Ministry issued a communique in which it repeats that the Panamanian Government's position is to make no pronouncement with regard to the Senate's actions on the neutrality treaty. It also published an unofficial text of the Senate resolution on the neutrality treaty. This publication, as many have noted, contained an erroneous version of the DeConcini amendment. The publication said: Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 5 or any other provision of the canal treaty, if the canal is closed or its operations are interfered with, the Republic of Panama and the United States of America shall each independently have the right to take such steps deemed necessary in accordance with respective constitutional processes, including the use of military force, to reopen the canal or restore the operations of the canal, as the case may be.

We see that the DeConcini amendment, contained in the resolution of ratification of the Senate, was approved on 16 March, and it is on 27 March that the text, an erroneous text at that, is published for the first time in Panama. It is an erroneous text because the DeConcini amendment, first of all, did not state that the Republic of Panama and the United States of America will have the right to take measures independently, as they deem fit. It spoke only of the United States. And more importantly, the erroneous text of the published amendment omitted the portion which said that the United States has the right to intervene, including the use of military force in Panama--it omitted the words in Panama--to reopen the canal or restore the operations of the canal, as the case may be.

Yesterday, the newspaper LA REPUBLICA carried a pronouncement by the chief of government in an interview with newsman Carl Rowan which was published last Sunday in the Chicago SUN TIMES. In this statement, the chief of government said that for Panama it would be unacceptable...

[Unidentified speaker interrupts] No, that is the Carter portion.

[Boyd] Pardon me. Its main portion says that Panamanians, after studying the DeConcini amendment, have objected so strongly to those amendments--to quote Torrijos--so many Panamanians have objected to the DeConcini amendment that he has serious doubts that the people would accept it in a new plebiscite.

We see, therefore, that on the one hand the Panamanian people are told that there will be no pronouncement until the results of the Senate ratification process of the two treaties are known, while on the other hand there have been pronouncements--which I would call very wise--by the chief of government and the Panamanian ambassador to the United Nations.

Hence, on the personal level, on 8 April I advocated that without delay the national government should inform the U.S. Government through regular channels, which means the State Department, that the DeConcini amendment is unacceptable to Panama and that the U.S. Senate, by substantially changing the text of the Torrijos-Carter treaty, has rejected the neutrality treaty.

I would advise telling the world at this time that the actions taken by the U.S. Senate are equivalent to rejecting the treaty because in fact this DeConcini amendment limits Panama's effective sovereignty over all its territory in such a manner that no Latin American and certainly no Panamanian, if he analyzes it prudently, could accept it despite the good things in the treaty.

Yesterday, a very heated debate took place within the U.S. Senate regarding the note which Panama circulated in the United Nations and regarding the chief of government's statements to newsman Rowan. What primarily caught my attention were the words of Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd, who called for prudence in the United States and Panama and asked us for calm and patience and publicly recognized that we Panamanians have been very tolerant and that we have really been very clam despite all the disagreeable and even insulting things which have been said unintentionally in the U.S. Senate in the course of the longest debate in the history of the United States, the debate on the Panama Canal treaties.

However, Byrd, who is a very skillfull politician, said in his speech that the U.S. Government has not so far received any official indication that the Panamanian Government is not going to proceed with the exchange of instruments of ratification of these treaties when the United States has ended its consideration of them. That is why I believe that it is advantageous and even urgent for the national government to make a pronouncement before the Senate ends the debate on the two treaties.

[Rangel] There is something which I would like to ask you, someone who has been foreign minister and Panamanian ambassador to the United Nations. The measure taken by the government--the postponement of an official position regarding the DeConcini amendment--has been criticized by some. You have been criticizing it on the grounds that it is necessary to take a position right now. However, a rejection of the two treaties represents a political responsibility not only on the part of the government, but also on our part here. It is therefore not on the juridical level--which must necessarily and urgently be discussed--but on the political level that the Panamanian people who are listening to us will understand it. Therefore, what is the alternative? What is the political, economic responsibility involved in rejecting a treaty and telling the Panamanian people that this is what we are going to give you, these are the measures which we are going to take. It is very easy to say that this sullies our national dignity. It is true. We all feel it. We are all Panamanians, and none is more Panamanian than the other. However, I would like the government and you who are politicians to decide not only to reject a treaty, but to move forward with or without a treaty. And this is a political responsibility which involves more than just a decision about whether things should be done 6 days before or 7 days later. I ask you politicians, what will be the effect on the Panamanian people of the rejection of these treaties?

[Boyd] First of all, I am going to divide your question into two parts because I think that you have gone beyond my statements and have reached definitive conclusions. I would say that I do not believe in hasty pronouncements, but neither do I believe in delayed pronouncements. I believe that since 3 weeks have passed since the Senate ratified the DeConcini amendment, if Panamanians remain silent, it is very likely that the Senate will approve the second treaty and the historical episode will be ended in the way that the most reactionary elements of the United States would like.

What I am saying is that the Panamanian Government should indicate to the U.S. Senate that the responsibility for the rejection of the treaty falls on the U.S. Senate. The U.S. Senate by modifying, changing, altering the treaty by means of this DeConcini amendment, which is unacceptable to us, would force us to reject it and we should officially state this to the State Department.

What would be the advantage of a pronouncement of this kind? We must try to maintain on the highest level worldwide public opinion which we have molded with so much effort beginning with the Security Council meeting in Panama. To achieve this, it is necessary to say to the world that it is the Senate which is intransigent, that it is not the Panamanian Government which, after the treaty is returned to us with the DeConcini amendment attached, will reject these treaties because it could not accept with equanimity that which is the result of the best negotiation that could be carried out in our time.

I believe that if Panama tells the world that this DeConcini amendment is unacceptable and that the U.S. Senate is to blame for the rejection--because its action is equivalent to a rejection--I believe that the U.S. Government will move heaven and earth between now and 18 April to revise the resolution of ratification approved on 16 March. The United States has a lot more to lose than Panama by the rejection of these treaties. There is a lot at stake. This is a matter that is very grave, very serious, very momentous, very important for world peace.

[Velasquez] Mr Boyd, I believe that the substance of Itzel's question has not been answered. What would be the effects in a country like Panama--with a dependent and weak economy, with our political relations of dependency with the United States and in view of the relative nature of international solidarity--what could be the effects of a break by Panama with this process?

[Boyd] I think that the fact that Panama is placing the responsibility for the rejection of these treaties squarely on the U.S. Senate will win us even greater support than we already have, if that is possible. We must also realize that in the United States, where at the beginning of this debate we had 20 percent of the public's support, we now have a 50-50 situation. This means we are not slipping back to the starting point. Panama has international support and public support within the United States itself.

If our position is just, once the State Department receives Panama's notice, it will do all it can. And President Carter, who has enormous political interests at stake in this matter of the treaties, will also do everything in his power to erase the DeConcini amendment from the 16 March ratification agreement.

I think that if this is not accomplished, the national government might then make an effective appeal for reconciliation and national unity and might ask the country's most capable elements to sit down as patriots at a roundtable to make proposals that might serve as counterreservations to that which the Senate plans to include and which I believe will end one way or the other on the 18th.

NEWSMEN SUPPORT TORRIJOS PLAN FOR REPRESENTATIVES

PA062215Y Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 6 Apr 78 p 21 PA

[Text] The fifth national journalists congress held in Santiago, Veraguas Province, last weekend issued an appeal to "Panamanian citizens for greater participation in the elections while maintaining the best and most legitimate means to make these elections the most democratic in the history of the country and to have representatives meet the conditions and qualities required by the historical moment which Panama is experiencing."

The journalists congress also resolved "to firmly support General Torrijos' plan to give the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives more responsibility in the process of drafting and approving Panamanian laws."

In their resolution on electoral matters, the newsmen asked the national government to improve the established rules during the upcoming electoral process in order to guarantee that the elections are carried out in the best possible manner.

The congress asked the government to take the necessary measures to have high-ranking officials, such as corregidores and directors of provincial and municipal electoral offices, comply with regulations in this area.

At the congress, over 150 journalists openly debated problems pertaining to their field, national and international affairs--including the problem of the Panama Canal treaties--and the proposed unification of all the country's newsmen into a single organization.

According to spokesmen for the organizing committee, the goals established for the congress were fully achieved, particularly those concerning the establishment of mechanisms to achieve the cherished goal of unity in the news media family.

SALVADORAN DEMONSTRATORS SEND LETTER TO TORRIJOS

PA121514Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpt] Salvadoran demonstrators who are demanding an end to the persecution of the peasants yesterday occupied five embassies accredited to the Salvadoran Government, including the Panamanian Embassy. This information has been confirmed by Panamanian Ambassador to El Salvador Elizabeth Riasco, who said that the embassies of Venezuela, Mexico, Colombia and Switzerland were also occupied by the demonstrators.

The ambassador said that the Panamanian Embassy was taken over peaceably by 30 persons, all members of the Popular Revolutionary Bloc, who gave her a letter addressed to Panamanian Chief of Government Brig Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera.

The ambassador added that the embassy personnel have freedom of movement and have not been subjected to coercion. The letter asks General Torrijos to intercede with the Salvadoran Government to stop the repression of the peasants.

COSTA RICA

FOREIGN MINISTER ON EL SALVADOR INCIDENTS, CANCELED TRIP

PA132148Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpts] Gonzala Facio has stated that the peasants in our embassy [in El Salvador] are not refugees. The situation has been tense in that country since the elections, the Costa Rican foreign minister said. Our attitude has been one of cooperation in restoring order but upholding the principle of nonintervention.

Here are Gonzalo J. Facio's remarks explaining the latest incidents concerning the takeover of our offices in El Salvador: [begin Facio recording] As the country knows, members of a Salvadoran peasant group occupied the offices of our embassy in San Salvador. They did so peaceably and, of course, our staff did not resist.

In fact, the situation in El Salvador is very tense. There has not been a single day of calm since the electoral campaign ended last year, and the domestic situation is very serious. Our attitude is one of cooperation in the restoration of order, desiring that democracy function as effectively as possible in El Salvador. However, we cannot interfere in the domestic affairs of a neighboring country. The principle of nonintervention is the biggest shield we have to prevent other countries from interfering in our own affairs.

I talked with our ambassador to El Salvador, Don Luis Alzamora, again this morning. He is handling the situation calmly, intelligently and efficiently. I think he will come out all right. There will be no violent incidents, at least not in our embassy.

[Question by unidentified speaker] I understand you are going to leave for the United States to negotiate beef, sugar and other goods. When will you leave?

[Answer] No, I had to cancel my trip because the president of the republic does not agree that I should make the trip. He would rather I stay in the country for the time being. [end recording]

RADIO RELOJ REGRETS SEEING TODMAN'S DEPARTURE

PA132003Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 Apr 78 PA

[Station editorial]

[Text] The end of Terence Todman's term as U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs had unfortunately been expected by many while others felt it would be impossible to prevent it. The fact is that Todman, a very interesting man to analyze, was appointed at a very difficult time when a policy of confrontation between dictatorships and democracies had to be outlined. The alternatives were coexistence of fighting and, in this context, Carter has been unable to meet his commitments, nor will he be able to do so.

Carter's ideological struggle is obviously important. Those of us who analyze events thought Carter would deliver more. Theoreticians and politicians knew Carter would not be able to meet his commitments. The man who has suffered the consequences is Todman, who is not really to blame for this political crisis.

We insist on believing, however, that the struggle for human rights has advanced a great deal. But as long as there are situations such as that of Somoza, the U.S. Government will sound ridiculous whenever it speaks of human rights.

PROMINENT FSLN MEMBER CAPTURED BY AUTHORITIES

PA1315457 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2245 GMT 12 Apr 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 12 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Plutarco Hernandez Sancho, one of the most prominent members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), today fell into the hands of Costa Rican authorities. This occurred in the Public Security Ministry, which did not give details of the capture. [as received]

Hernandez Sancho, who was born in Costa Rica 30 years ago, has played an important role in the FSLN. In 1971 he participated in the attack on the jail in Alajuela, Costa Rica's second most important city, to release top FSLN leader Carlos Fonseca Amador. Fonseca Amador was killed in a clash with the Nicaraguan army a few months ago. In the Alajuela attack a guard was killed, so Hernandez Sancho was sentenced to a 10-year prison term which he has not served.

He has participated in operations in several countries and has traveled frequently to Cuba.

ODUBER TO NEGOTIATE SAFE-CONDUCTS FOR SANDINISTS

PA1303557 Paris AFP in Spanish 2102 GMT 12 Apr 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 12 Apr (AFP)--It was learned today in official circles that Costa Rican President Daniel Oduber will personally negotiate with his Nicaraguan counterpart Anastasio Somoza safe-conducts for the six members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) who are in the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua. Oduber will either travel to Managua for this purpose or make the necessary arrangements by phone. Should his efforts fail, the matter will be taken before the OAS.

According to a Costa Rican Foreign Ministry investigation, the refugees, all members of the FLSN, were being persecuted for political reasons. In view of this fact, the San Jose government decided to grant them political asylum, but the Nicaraguan authorities have never responded to Costa Rica's requests.

The six Sandinists have been identified as Rodolfo Palacios, Jose A. Moreno Ponce, Ernesto Mejia Burgos, Jose Ballestero, Pedro Gonzalez Poveda and Jose Carrion Lopez.

EL SALVADOR

POPULAR REVOLUTIONARY BLOC CONTINUES OCCUPATION

Ambassadors Called to Meeting

PA1319217 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1728 GMT 13 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 12 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--The Popular Revolutionary Bloc (BPR) today invited the ambassadors of Panama, Costa Rica and Venezuela--whose embassies are being occupied by the BPR--to a meeting in the archbishopric to discuss the demands made by the leftists. It is not known if the ambassadors will attend the meeting, but yesterday they expressed interest in contributing to the solution of the occupation of their embassies as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, the BPR has invited the Salvadoran people to a mass at the occupied metropolitan cathedral to express their solidarity with the peasants. The mass will be held at 1700 (2300 GMT). There is concern over what might occur there since the area around the cathedral is heavily guarded by police to prevent demonstrations, an official source told ACAN-EFE.

At the presidential house, ACAN-EFE was told that a communique will be issued soon regarding the illegal occupation of the Panamanian, Costa Rican and Venezuela embassies. The source also said that last night's Council of Ministers merely heard reports on general affairs of the country. It was not revealed if the subject of the occupation of the embassies and the cathedral was discussed.

Appeal to Costa Rican Ambassador

PA130321Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0105 GMT 13 Apr 78 PA

[Communique to Costa Rican Ambassador Julian Zamora from members of Popular Revolutionary Bloc presently occupying the embassy, as read to Radio Reloj via telephone by Ambassador Zamora--recorded]

[Text] Mr Ambassador: We, Salvadorans all, members of the Popular Revolutionary Bloc [BPR], wish to inform you: first, that since 19 March several rural sectors within San Salvador Department have been occupied by military troops engaged in operations against peasant workers, mainly those organized within the BPR; second, that there have been dozens of dead, [words indistinct] hundreds of injured, arrested and tortured, many families left homeless, women and girls raped, many houses burned and destroyed, thousands who have fled into the jungle while some of us reached the capital to seek refuge; third, that the Salvadoran Government, through the media, has tried to distort the facts; fourth, that we are not safe in our cantons as they are occupied by the army and [words indistinct] and lacking the means [words indistinct]. In view of all this, we ask the ambassador of the sister nation of Costa Rica the following: first, that his government intercede with the Salvadoran Government to stop repression and withdraw the troops from the occupied areas; second, to guarantee by every possible means our lives and the return to our homes; third, to reveal to the people of this country this serious situation affecting the Salvadoran people as a result of the inhuman measures being used by the Salvadoran Government. [words indistinct]

We wish to add that the Salvadoran people's struggle demands of the Salvadoran Government the following: 1) to stop repression and respect our right to organize and the existence of popular organizations; 2) withdrawal of the military and paramilitary forces from the occupied areas; 3) guarantee to all peasant workers that they will be able to return to their homes; 4) abolition of the defense law and guarantee of public order; and, 5) amnesty for political prisoners.

We express to the ambassador our sincere gratitude. [signed] Peasant members of the BPR

KIDNAPERS RELEASE HOSTAGE AFTER RECEIVING RANSOM

PA132154Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 12 Apr (LATIN)--Gustavo Cartagena, an engineer, was released tonight when his family paid an undisclosed amount of ransom. Cartagena was held 7 days by his kidnapers, who identified themselves as members of the so-called People's Revolutionary Armed Forces and Workers Revolutionary Organization. He was kidnaped from his office at 1930 last Thursday and released safe and sound tonight at 2000 (0200 GMT), with visible signs of being worn out from his prolonged captivity.

GUATEMALA

SOLDIERS, CIVILIANS CLASH NEAR BORDER WITH HONDURAS

PA132225Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2256 GMT 11 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 11 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Two persons were killed and one wounded during an armed clash between soldiers and a group of civilians, the army's public relations office disclosed in a bulletin issued Tuesday afternoon. The clash, which lasted several minutes, took place early this morning in Esquipula, Chacalapa District, a city on the border with Honduras. The army bulletin states that a patrol was sent to the place where, according to reports, an armed group had been seen. When the army patrol encountered the armed group, a firefight ensued.

Justo Carranza Perez, one of the armed civilians, was seriously wounded, dying afterward in the hospital in Chiquimula, capital of Chiquimula Province, in the eastern part of the country. The army regrets, the bulletin says, the death of Miss Blanca Portillo as a result of the shots fired by the hoodlums. The innocent victim and her mother, Magdalena Portillo, who also was wounded, were passing by when the shooting started.

The bulletin adds that units of the military brigade stationed in the east are combing the area for the rest of the bandits who escaped.

HONDURAS

PRESIDENT RECOVERING FROM UNSPECIFIED ILLNESS

PA130425Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1622 GMT 12 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 12 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Honduran chief of state Gen Juan Alberto Melgar is recovering from an ailment that forced him to stay in bed at his home in this capital, a spokesman from the presidential residence reported today. The nature of his illness was not revealed to the press, but it was announced that, although it was nothing serious, the president was advised to take good care of himself to avoid complications.

SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE REPORTS ISRAELI ARMS TO NICARAGUA

PA132150Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0057 GMT 13 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 12 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--The Honduran Committee of Solidarity with the Nicaraguan People announced here today that an Israeli ship loaded with weapons is about to dock at a Nicaraguan port. According to a committee spokesman, the ship, the Yaffo, is loaded with artillery, light machineguns, a small patrol boat and several light helicopters for the Nicaraguan National Guard.

According to the committee, this information was obtained from reliable sources. The ship was detained for several days in Portuguese ports, where the stevedores held a strike last month.

NICARAGUA

DEPUTIES APPROVE 3-MONTH LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR SOMOZA

PA132315Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2255 GMT 13 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 13 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaraguan President Gen Anastasio Somoza Debayle today, Thursday, requested a new 3-month leave of absence from Congress. He made the request in view of the fact that a previous authorization for the same period of time expires this month.

As on other occasions, the Conservative deputies objected to granting President Somoza permission because he never reports on the results of his periodic visits to the United States.

Permission was approved with the Liberal majority vote, pending approval by the Senate.

DEMONSTRATIONS, SCHOOL OCCUPATIONS CONTINUE

PA132130Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1911 GMT 13 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 13 Apr (AFP)--A girl has died of asphyxiation from gas used by police. The Nicaraguan army broke up a student demonstration last night by using rifle butts in Jinotega, 160 km north of Managua. During the 8th day of student agitation throughout the country, it was reported that a teacher was wounded. The Managua news media report that the government has sent military reinforcements to that city to be on guard against a Sandinist Front attack.

Last night in Granada, 50 km east of Managua, police prevented a group of youths from reoccupying the cathedral. Hundreds of students who had occupied it were evicted by the police 4 days ago. Another student demonstration was broken up in Ocotal, 250 km to the north.

In Chinandega, 150 km west of Managua, a 10-year-old girl died of asphyxiation from gas used by police. Government opponents have denounced the use of gas bought in Argentina. The opponents say that the gas is "extremely dangerous" because it causes symptoms of suffocation even far from where it is used.

Most of the high schools of Jinotepe, 50 km south of Managua, continue to be occupied by groups of students who have erected barriers around the schools. The students are using masks to prevent identification by police. The strike of the high school students has extended throughout the country. The students support a request by members of the Sandinist Front who are imprisoned individually to be permitted to be in collective cells.

Managua Archbishop Miguel Obando has said that Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza is considering the possibility of granting a partial amnesty to the Sandinist prisoners. The archbishop is the only one who has maintained contact with President Somoza. He is the intermediary with the opposition, which has rejected any kind of dialog with Somoza. The rejection came as a result of Sunday's events when military patrols opened fire on demonstrators, killing 1 woman and wounding 15.

During the past few hours, several incidents have occurred in high schools. The education minister remains firm in his threat to suspend classes for the rest of the year if the students do not end their occupation of the schools.

RED CROSS ALLOWED TO VISIT COUNTRY'S JAILS

PA131438Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0330 GMT 13 Apr 78 PA

[Text] President Anastasio Somoza has told [name indistinct], president of the International Red Cross headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, that he has instructed Government Minister Jose Antonio Mora Rostran to grant all facilities and to make the pertinent arrangements to enable an International Red Cross commission to visit Nicaragua's jails. The invitation was conveyed to Ismael Reyes, president of the Nicaraguan Red Cross.

CASTRO CONTINUES TOUR OF INDUSTRIAL, AGRICULTURAL SITES

FL131312Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 13 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Our Commander in Chief Fedel Castro, PCC Central Committee first secretary, continues the extensive tour he began on Monday. Yesterday he visited several industrial projects under construction, social projects and sugar mills in the provinces of Ciego de Avila and Camaguey.

In the morning the commander in chief visited the provincial hospital being built in Moron and the 1,000-student capacity teacher training school. Afterward he went to Primero de Enero municipality where he toured the bagasse boards factory and the Torula plant which are being built next to the **sugar mill.** Fidel also visited the Primero de Enero sugar mill where an extensive exchange of opinions was held with managers and workers of the progress there of the sugarcane harvest.

In the afternoon the leader of the revolution went to Nuevitas, Camaguey Province, and toured the Diez de Octubre thermoelectric plant and the port. Following this, he visisted two important industrial projects under construction near the city of Camaguey, the meat and milk complexes.

Fidel was accompanied by Ramiro Valdes and Arnaldo Milian, both members of the Politburo. The fundamental objectives of these visits are to encourage completion of the new plants and fulfillment of the sugarcane harvest goals.

U.S. AUTO WORKERS DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR VISIT

FL131809Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 13 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Alfredo Suarez Quintela, secretary general of the National Transportation Workers Union and member of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers--CTC--Executive Secretariat, has received the U.S. United Automobile Workers delegation at the workers palace. The leaders of the two organizations exchanged experiences on the labor union movement in the two countries. Jesus Escandel, member of the CTC Secretariat and chief of its international relations department, attended the meeting.

BULGARIAN MINISTER CHAKUROV VISITS HOLGUIN

FL132255Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2205 GMT 13 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Toncho Chakurov, member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee and minister of machine building, has visited the city of Holguin accompanied by a delegation. At Frank Pais Airport, the visitors were received by Miguel Cano Blanco, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary of the party in that province, who accompanied them in a tour of the Martires del 26 de Julio agricultural implements factory.

Minister Chakurov expressed the need to continue broadening the program of training Cuban cadres in Bulgaria, which is most important for starting operations at the factory. Miguel Cano Blanco stated th the construction brigade will make a determined effort to complete the construction of the industry, which is a symbol of Cuban-Bulgarian friendship.

ANGOLAN HEALTH MINISTER ARRIVES IN SANTIAGO DE CUBA

FL132215Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2103 GMT 13 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Angolan Health Minister Domingos Coelho da Cruz arrived in Santiago de Cuba today, heading a delegation from his ministry. Accompanying the distinguished visitors, who arrived in our country on 9 April, was Jose A. Gutierrez Muniz, Cuban minister of public health and alternate member of the PCC Central Committee.

At the Antonio Maceo International Airport to welcome the delegation was Felipe Morejon, director of Santiago de Cuba's Public Health Ministry office, and Juan Ceballos, Helio Marrero and Alberto (Irieta), members of the party provincial committee. The members of the Angolan delegation will visit the Siboney farm, the former Moncada barracks and the Maceo brothers' home in Santiago de Cuba as well as the mausoleum, museum, pioneers palace and the Eduardo Mesa (Yul) community policlinic in the Second Front Municipality.

AALAPSO RAPS U.S. DECISION ON NEUTRON BOMB PRODUCTION

FL140020Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Apr 78 FL

[Text] The Afro-Asian-Latin American People's Solidarity Organization [AALAPSO] today severely criticized the North American decision merely to postpone production of the neutron bomb. It said this manuever of imperialist circles and the military-industrial complex is meant to appease world public opinion. Likewise, the organization demanded the United States definitively abandon plans to produce the device of massive annihilation. It also demanded that NATO refuse to use the bomb and called on all peaceful peoples to protest its production and to redouble the struggle for general and complete disarmament and international detente.

GARCIA FRIAS ATTENDS TRANSPORTATION EMULATION PLENUM

FL131532Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1342 GMT 13 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Guillermo Garcia Frias, PCC Politburo member and vice president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers, has presided over the National Transportation Workers Union emulation plenum. At the meeting it was announced that nationwide the union is complying with the pledges honoring the 11th World Youth and Students Festival. The best workers in 1977 received awards recognizing them as such.

Antonio Enrique Lusson, PCC Central Committee member and transportation minister; Rosario Fernandez from the Central Organization of Cuban Workers--CTC--Executive Secretariat; and Transportation Union Secretary General Alfredo Suarez also presided over the plenum. Union emulation secretary (Rafael Bechari) read the report on the time period and pointed out that despite difficulties the transportation workers carried out meritorious work.

Alfredo Suarez, National Transportation Workers Union secretary general, made the closing remarks at the emulation plenum, which took place yesterday in our capital. Suarez stated that most outstanding workers are not exceptional, nor do they have better equipment, but they are different from the rest because of their higher revolutionary awareness and their willingness to make a greater effort in building socialism.

He added that the fact that they are simple men shows that the best conservation, operation and maintenance, in addition to driving and care, of the equipment is based on the willingness of man, not on special conditions. Suarez received the vanguard work done by Maria de Jesus Abreu from "Autos de la Havana" and called on her to manitain the appearance and care of the equipment to provide better service to our people and welcome the 11th festival delegates and guests as they deserve.

PEREZ HERRERO CHAIRS ICRT CHECKUP MEETING

FL132205Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2102 GMT 13 Apr 78 FL

[Text] PCC Central Committee Secretariat member Antonio Perez Herrero today made the closing remarks at the Havana meeting of the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television [ICRT] to review 1977 accomplishments. Among many topics, Perez Herrero referred to the need for adopting a cadre policy aimed at improving programming, ICRT's efforts to fulfill party resolutions dealing with radio and television, and an annual selection of the best programs. Opening the meeting, ICRT President Nivaldo Herrera read the main report, which includes a critical examination of last year's efforts and the organization's future plans. Also chairing the event were Jose R. Fernandez, member of the PCC Central Committee and minister of education; Orlando Fundora, chief of the PCC Central Committee Revolutionary Orientation Department; Jacinto Viamontes, secretary general of the Culture Workers Trade Union; ICRT vice presidents, and other officials.

CTC DELEGATION TO ATTEND WORLD TRADE UNION CONGRESS

FL132028Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1907 GMT 13 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Roberto Veiga, secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers [CTC] and member of the PCC Central Committee and Council of State, heads the CTC delegation which will attend the Ninth World Trade Union Congress to be held in Prague, Czechoslovakia. The event, which will begin on 16 and end on 23 April, will take up topics dealing with workers struggles throughout the world, making them a decisive step forward for the unity of trade unions and for the gains and aspirations of the working class. Jesus Escandel, member of the CTC Executive Secretariat, will also be a member of the delegation.

CASTRO SENDS LETTER TO SANTIAGO PORT WORKERS

FL131311Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Apr 78 FL

[Text] A congratulatory letter sent by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro to the (Villermon) Moncada port workers in Santiago de Cuba for productive achievements in 1977 was announced at an event held at the port in this province.

At the event, presided over by Jose Ramon Balaguer, PCC Central Committee member and party first secretary in Santiago de Cuba, the port workers reaffirmed their pledges honoring the 25th anniversary of the Moncada barracks assault.

BRIEFS

GARCIA PELAEZ AWARDS CANECUTTERS--Central Committee member Raul Garcia Pelaez has made the closing remarks at a ceremony awarding the Mambisas del Siglo Veinte banner to the Sexagesimo Aniversario de la Revolucion de Octubre brigade. The Central Organization of Cuban Workers makes the award to collectives cutting 5 million arrobas of sugar cane. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1502 GMT 12 Apr 78 FL]

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